

Statement of Position on N2021-1 and N2021-2

6/7/2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission and the Board of Trustees of the U. S. Postal Service:

My name is Maria P. Bahn Tigaoan, and I am writing to request an immediate halt to the attempts to privatize The U.S. Postal Service and diminish and eliminate vital postal services to the public at large. I oppose the proposed changes to services as noted in N2021-1, N2021-2 and the 10-year plan which would be a disaster for the American public and all those who utilize the Postal Service. I further support the immediate removal of Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General of the United States.

I speak to you as a retired, disabled senior living on a fixed income and as former U.S. Postal Service letter carrier. I have been greatly impacted by the myriad changes in service since Mr. DeJoy's tenure as Postmaster General. My mail and medications have been delayed, lost, and sometimes returned after many weeks of having sat in postal limbo. Many post offices have been shuttered, so some of my bills have gone unpaid or incurred late fees, because they were prevented from arriving in a timely manner, documents and packages were either not delivered on time or had to be traced through the post office, although they in some cases, had a tracking number. Important packages that I have sent within the U.S. and overseas have been delayed and in some cases not delivered; my credit has been impacted due to bills that should not have been late, as they were mailed in plenty of time. Some of my 2-day priority mail packages, for which I actually paid higher postal costs, have taken as long as 3 weeks to arrive at their destination with no reimbursement for the delay well beyond a reasonable and promised timeframe. I am very appreciative of the postal workers and the efforts they have made despite a deadly global pandemic. I attribute the slowing down of services to the poor management by Mr. DeJoy.

As a partisan, corrupt and dishonest acolyte of the former Administration, Mr. DeJoy has proven that he does not have the best interests of the American public at heart. He has obstructed voting by hampering and tampering with the delivery of Mail-In Ballots, at the behest of the ex-president and thereby, interfered with the 2020 Election Cycle and our Democratic norms during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. DeJoy carried out this sabotage by 1. removing sorting machines and mailboxes; 2. cutting the hours of postal service workers and eliminating overtime, thereby slowing down processing and delivery of mail and packages; 3. obstructed the delivery of essential life-saving medications and medical equipment to people like me, a disabled Senior, who relies on the US Postal Service for life-sustaining items; 4. caused spoilage of food and other products that require timely mail service (in some cases animals died and this resulted in loss of income for farmers and others who deal in live animal shipment through the post office) 5. shows contempt for the American public, both rural and urban people, who rely on the mail as a lifeline and who cannot afford the high cost of private courier service or shipping companies or travel out of their neighborhoods to find a place to put their mail as boxes are destroyed and removed from communities.

Mr. DeJoy's proposed plans to further cripple and eliminate the Postal Service as we know it, by targeting air mail and delivery systems of postage and packages in a country that is 3,000 miles wide and 1,000 miles long. He introduces impossible delays in mail service, delivery of documents, medication, educational materials, food and ballot applications and mail-in ballots. This introduces additional costs and hardship to the public and takes the postal service backward instead of toward more efficiency.

His attempts to privatize a fundamental US Institution is a slap in the face to the American people, who have always relied upon the Postal Service as an equitable means of receiving mail and goods.

It seems that Mr. DeJoy wants to punish the American public for the sake of his own avarice and corruption; his attention is only focused on making the wealthy richer and the poor and middle class pay their bills, through exponentially increasing mailing costs and the price of stamps; he wants to make corruption, wage theft of postal employees, and cronyism the rule, instead of doing his job to manage the postal service as an essential mandate of the Constitution.

Mr. DeJoy is abusing Postal Workers, a large swath of whom are Black, Brown, Female, or low income, threatening their lives and livelihood with cuts to their hours and elimination of their jobs. Under Louis DeJoy, this makes the Postal Service an agent and practitioner of racism and classism, and will disproportionately and negatively impact people of color, the poor, the elderly, and families under guise of so-called modernization.

The Postal Regulatory Commission and The Board of Trustees has the obligation to answer to the public, not to shareholders of corporations or surreptitious straw donors of political dark money, who benefit from Mr. DeJoy's willingness to lie, cheat, and carry out his duties in a manner antithetical to the public good. He has proven that he is ignorant of the way the postal service operates and is unfit to be the leader of this long-established institution.

Mr. DeJoy's agenda seems to fatten his own coffers and those of the oligarchy he supports. That he is completely ignorant of the postal service, its history, its importance in the foundation and fabric of this country through its on-time delivery of documents and packages, further amplifies the urgent need for his removal as Postmaster General.

Postal Workers should be revered and respected, should be elevated and cared for with good benefits and adequate time off to alleviate stress, should have safe and sanitary and secure working conditions. Mr. DeJoy has been hostile to the Postal Service employees, undermining their health and well-being by wage theft and disrespect. Many postal workers have been so exposed in this pandemic and many have died due COVID-19, in part due to Mr. DeJoy's failure of leadership. Many had none to inadequate PPE to protect them. They work above and beyond to send out our mail to us, come rain or shine, sleet, or Coronavirus. I applaud the Postal workers for doing their duty, despite Mr. DeJoy's obstruction and indifference.

Mr. DeJoy is a clear and present danger, and a greedy, corrupt, and cynical poster child for corporate malfeasance. He is defiant and ugly in his demeanor and his actions and intentions to destroy the US Postal Service by a thousand cuts and stab wounds undermines this long-standing and beloved institution. Above all, he is a threat to Democracy. He is an ignorant impostor and has shown complete contempt for the long-standing pillar of our country, the United States Postal Service. Please reject the proposals under N2020-1 and N2021-2

Louis DeJoy must be immediately removed as Postmaster General and not offered any other position where he can continue to do irreparable harm. If we have any hope for this country to survive his incompetence and to counter the autocracy that he would like to invoke in his current and undeserved position of authority, he must be removed as Postmaster General. Louis DeJoy is a threat to the US Postal Service, the country, and the World, and must be immediately terminated from his position as Postmaster General, which he only obtained through graft and corruption, before he does irreparable harm to the Postal Service and to the American People. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maria P. Bahn Tigaoan